

wherein said flexible, thin-walled tube is a polymer material, said polymer material being selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes, polyurethanes, and derivatives thereof;

- (b) a means for retaining [at] said closed end of said flexible, thin-walled tube within a vagina juxtaposed to the cervix [near the uterus] of a user.

22. (Twice Amended) a tubular protective device for protection against a transfer of infectious matter during sexual intercourse, said protective device consisting of:

- (a) a thin-walled, flexible tube having;
 - (i) a closed end,
 - (ii) an open end, and
 - (iii) a first diameter sufficiently large to permit movement of a penis within said tube during coitus;
- (b) an outwardly extending collar-shaped means for radially stretching said open end, said collar-shaped means having a second diameter larger than the first diameter and attached to the open end of the tube;

wherein said flexible, thin-walled tube is a polymer material, said polymer material being selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes, polyurethanes, and derivatives thereof; and

- (c) a means for retaining [at] said closed end of said flexible, thin-walled tube within a vagina juxtaposed to the cervix [near the uterus] of a user.

23. (Twice Amended) The tubular protective device of claim 22 wherein said means for retaining is connected to said flexible, thin-walled tube [a planar second elastic ring for removable insertion into said closed end].

26. (Amended) A tubular protective device for protection against a transfer of infectious matter during sexual intercourse comprising:

- (a) a flexible, thin-walled tube having a sufficiently large first diameter to permit movement of a penis within said tube during coitus, said flexible thin-walled tube having a closed end, and an open end, said open end having:
 - (i) a collar-shaped, outwardly extending portion; and
 - (ii) a first elastic ring integrally connected with said collar-shaped portion having a second diameter larger than said first diameter;
- (b) a means for retaining [at] said closed end of said flexible, thin-walled tube within a vagina juxtaposed to the cervix [near the uterus] of a user.

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111 reconsideration of the Official Action of April 18, 1989, and reexamination of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 21 through 23 and 26 are pending. Claims 21 through 23 and 26 are amended by this response.

An extension of time for 3 months and a check for the SMALL ENTITY fee accompany this response.